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**Letter dated 17 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 May 2002, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Umit Pamir
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 17 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 17 April 2002 and 26 April 2002 (A/56/924-S/2002/440, A/56/934-S/2002/485) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were refuted in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 12 March 2002 (A/56/873-S/2002/272). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be underlined that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air-traffic regulations are void and groundless under international law. Every precaution is being taken for the safety of navigation of civil air traffic during the activities of Turkish State aircraft within international airspace, within which the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air-traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in my previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within their respective territories on the island.

In spite of the clear necessity to refrain from actions which exacerbate the lack of confidence between the two sides in Cyprus and thus reduce the chances of reconciliation, the Greek Cypriot administration is engaged in a massive military build-up in South Cyprus.

Within the framework of the "Joint Military Doctrine" signed between the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece, the annual joint military manoeuvres code-named "Toxotis 2002" were held in South Cyprus during early April. It was reported in the *Cyprus Weekly* of 5 April 2002 that eight F-16 fighter jets and a number of vessels belonging to the Greek air force and navy participated in these manoeuvres. The commander of the Greek Cypriot National Guard, General Florakis, was quoted by the Greek Cypriot daily *Politis* as saying that "all of the existing air and naval observation systems" had been deployed during the manoeuvres in line with the "Joint Military Doctrine".

In an interview aired by the Greek Cypriot television, as reported also by the Greek Cypriot press of 10 April 2002, the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister Mr. Hasikos referred to the "Joint Military Doctrine" and stated that certain changes within the Greek Cypriot National Guard were under way with a view to keeping in line with the restructuring of the Armed Forces of Greece. It was reported by the weekly *Kipros Semera* of 29 March 2002 that Greece will be supplying the Greek Cypriot National Guard Navy units with two destroyers.

Recent military purchases by the Greek Cypriot administration have also been reported in the Greek Cypriot press. It was reported in *Politis* of 1 May 2002 that the purchase of unmanned spy planes had been approved by the relevant authorities of the Greek Cypriot administration. *Fileleftheros* of 17 April 2002 reported that the process for the acquisition of six armoured transport helicopters had already begun. *Alithia* of 24 March 2002 further reported that the Greek Cypriot administration will be acquiring Russian-made M126 helicopters for military purposes. *Fileleftheros* of 3 May 2002 reported that the above helicopters were expected to arrive in South Cyprus during the summer of 2002.

Following recent press reports as to the status of the construction of a naval base at Zygi in South Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot Defence Ministry issued a statement confirming that the necessary works on land and in sea were continuing at the base site designed to meet the operational needs of the Greek Cypriot National Guard. This was also confirmed by Mr. Hasikos in an interview to the Greek Cypriot daily *Mahi* on 14 April 2002:

"Recently there have been press reports that the construction of the naval base had been cancelled. Naturally we have refuted this false claim because the contractors were at the time working intensively in order to finish the job they had begun months ago. I hope that we will all be coming together for the inauguration of the base at the beginning of the coming year."

I would like to note that the military activities of the Greek Cypriot side are taking place at the time of the ongoing direct talks between the two States in Cyprus, on the basis of the agreement reached between President Denktaş and the Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Clerides on 4 December 2001 (S/2001/1162). Let us hope that the Greek Cypriot administration will refrain from taking any further action which would hamper the prospects of achieving progress through the current phase of the talks. At this crucial stage and in view of your current visit to the island to meet with the two leaders, it is all the more pertinent that the Greek Cypriot administration would cease all hostile and provocative activities and adopt a constructive stance which would facilitate progress towards a comprehensive settlement between the two States.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ Plümer
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus